

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2003.

Restriction requirement

Applicant respectfully notes that the restriction requirement has been withdrawn.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 3-8 and 15-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been accordingly rewritten. Claim 2 has been canceled. Thus, Applicants respectfully request notice of the allowance of independent slider claim 3 and its dependent claims 4-8 and 15-16.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

With respect to independent method claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-14, the Examiner stated that the claims are unpatentable over Harada et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,276,573. However, Harada does not teach, suggest, or otherwise render obvious each step of the claimed method. For example, the method of claim 9 recites a step of "forming a composite wafer." FIGS. 13a-13c of the Harada reference illustrate that a slab of ceramic material 203 is provided with an array of heads 4. Slab 203 is subdivided to form a plurality of rectangular slider substrate precursors 103. Each precursor 103 is machined to form channel configurations, resulting in base substrate 3.

In a separate process illustrated by FIGS. 14a-14c, a wafer 120 of silicone or glass is etched or deposited to form lift control formations 121-122. The wafer 120 is then cut into a plurality of chips 20. In a combining process shown in FIG. 15, a chip 20 is assembled with a base substrate 3 to form a slider. Harada does not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious a method

comprising a step of forming a composite wafer. In contrast, in the Harada method, each wafer is processed individually and the resulting slider components are then assembled together.

Moreover, claim 9 is amended to clarify that the trailing portion is positioned behind the leading portion. This limitation is not taught or suggested by Harada.

Because the Harada reference does not render obvious the claimed subject matter, Applicants respectfully request notice of the allowability of independent claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-14. Additionally, new claims 17 and 18, each dependent from claim 9, are added to recite subject matter fully supported by the original specification. Notice of the allowability of claims 17 and 18 is also requested.

New claims

New independent claim 19 is hereby presented. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19 is allowable and recites subject matter that is fully supported by the original specification. Therefore, notice of the allowability of independent claim 19 and its dependent claims 20-26 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

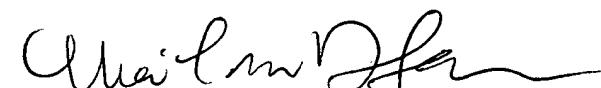
Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 3-26 are allowable and respectfully request notice to that effect. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any over payment to deposit account number 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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